

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Approved 2/11/13

COUNTY OF NEWPORT

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Joint Workshop with the Budget Committee on Thursday, the 24th day of January 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Road.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilor President Roderick, Vice-President deMedeiros, Councilor Arruda, Councilor Chabot, Councilor Gerlach .Councilor Lambert and Councilor Pelletier were absent.

Town Administrator was also present.

1. Call To Order

Council President Roderick called the Council to order with a pledge of allegiance to the flag and roll call.

Discussion on Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Budget

Councilor Roderick opened workshop to review and discuss FY 2013/14 budget received from Town Administrator dated 1/23/13 prior to attending Budget Committee meeting at 7:30. Opened for questions.

Town Administrator distributed a listing of major year to year differences in budget. Estimating an increase of \$822,000. Recurring and non-recurring increased by \$47,800; no major item, repairing roof at fire station, defibulators, 2 new cruisers. The T/A budget up approximately \$65,000 for Business Park advisory services to continue looking for funding for infrastructure, new website and new employee manual which is part of payroll process.

Decrease almost \$40,000 Board of Canvassers with no elections this year, decrease in school building maintenance of \$10,000, legal services decreased by \$20,000. Code Enforcement has an increase of \$14,800 for part timer. Planning Board no longer able to carry forward unused funds for professional services has increase of \$20,000. Revaluation increase to \$53,000 per year in reserve account, Insurance has gone down by \$37,800 which includes 7% increase in health insurance costs. Switching to HSA has only created minor problems and have all been fixed. Police pension has increased by \$25,000 in effort to keep up with salary increases and make up shortfall, currently doing better than ever. Municipal pensions increase \$46,000 set by retirement board, increase social security, unemployment and unfunded liability by approximately \$29,000. Unfunded liability is payout for fire, police or clerical unused sick and vacation. Currently only projecting two police and two fire personnel retiring. Fire Dept. increase of \$107,000, nothing major stands out, a lot of detail. Police increase by \$253,000, added 2 CCO's. Council recently received a letter, investigating. Is a result of two radio

systems; police use a 400 megahertz and fire using 800. When calls come in control center with two radios they talk over each other and is difficult for one person to handle both radios. Talked to Emergency Management Agency, they contacted Homeland Security. Both Police and Fire Chief have documented what they feel are problems, meanwhile still have issue to take care of. That alone adds \$140,000 with salaries and benefits. Increase in Library of \$15,000. T/A warned next year's budget 14/15 will see significant increase. Attended meeting looking at preliminary design; big building, lot of landscaping and lot to take care of. Understanding is after complete will turn over to Town and will be our responsibility to pick up expense. Added \$168,000 for landfill closure from Council discussions. Wastewater Management facility loan increase \$7,700. Public Works overall increase of \$96,400 with cost of sand, salt and little extra for paving and drainage. Basically that is increases in budget.

Councilor Roderick suggested talk on some line items. His opinion budget needs to be pared down more and looking for areas that could use second look.

Councilor Gerlach questioned whether any work had been done on exploring the refinancing of the TIF bond which could possibly create considerable savings. T/A hasn't heard from Treasurer at this point.

Councilor Roderick, under municipal capital, night vision camera nice

to have not sure necessary at this time. T/A informed also looking at this item. Received a quote today for half of the fire station roof for \$16,000 using prevailing rates. Option to do half this year and half next year as done with Senior Center.

Councilor Roderick, should do entire roof but looking at budget that needs to be reduced. T/A has same feeling although tried to do repairs and they were unsuccessful so need south side at minimum. Councilor Arruda suggested an inspection prior to making decision. Concern if doing half the roof and find problems won't have the money. Councilor Chabot questioned the roof on the Community Center. T/A stated in terrible shape, no shingles left. In process of moving Planning Dept to Town Hall. Leaves WWM and Harbormaster in Comm Center, trying to get people out of building and sell. Hopefully Essex Library will help with space.

Councilor Roderick after inspection of Fire Dept roof can look if need emergency repairs on Community Center. Requested T/A provide actuals spent this year against the budget. T/A responded have December budget and revenue reports and audit in Monday's packet.

Councilor deMedeiros stated would like Clerk to place budget review on all Council agendas until FTR.

Councilor Roderick questioned street light account. T/A responded couple of years ago shut off 69 street lights and has a list of additional 60 that no action was taken on. Budget has remained level.

Criteria for shut off was no intersections, no bad curves, no crime areas, no accident areas, places where lights were close together. Councilor Roderick requested T/A get back with estimate if shut additional lights.

Councilor Roderick requested information on DPW repairs and tires budgeted for \$65,000 and custodial travel of \$6,500. T/A informed that is for gas and repairs for maintenance and janitor travel. Also paying \$55 weekly for rental of maintenance foreman's personal truck totaling \$14,470. Town pays for his fuel, some repairs and some tools. Only pay custodian 55 cents per mile between Town Hall, Senior Center, Library and Community Center. Councilor Roderick suggests need to look at and see if any truck or vehicle in Town not being used.

Councilor Roderick had previously requested estimates on savings if brought mowing services in house. T/A will look into costs of equipment and personnel. T/A informed do have a mowing contract for three years and will look into that as well.

Councilor Gerlach questioned the ongoing cost of \$5,000 to maintain the website above and beyond cost of getting new one up and running. Wonder if opportunity to bring in house and if someone was willing to take on. T/A will be reviewing. Councilor deMedeiros suggested may be able to use some community service with students. Town Clerk stated constant complaints on website and

suggests get someone professional and not students. T/A had contacted superintendent regarding getting assistance on website and indicated students can do good job but not professional. No cost to go to RI.gov only to transfer the data and then software is fairly simply. Contemplating having each department update their own.

At this time Councilor Roderick called for motion to adjourn the workshop.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor deMedeiros motioned, seconded by Councilor Gerlach to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance at Budget Committee Meeting (7:30pm)

Members of Council attended Budget Committee at their scheduled meeting to answer any general questions they may have regarding the municipal budget.

A True Copy.

ATTEST:

Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk